



# December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve

## PRELUDE

### 4pm & 6pm String Quartet

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear; Sing We Now of Christmas Noel Nouvelet;  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen; Angels We Have Heard on High*

String Quartet Arrangements used/streamed by permission.  
ASCAP Naked Yell Music, Last Resort Music Publishing, Inc.

### 10pm Sharon Nauman, cello & Scott Sims, piano

*O Little Town of Bethlehem; What Child is This?; O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## GREETING

## INVOCATION

Our worship this holy night begins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



Special thanks to The Classic Touch Strings & Orchestra

Violin I – Pat Snyder; Violin II – Cathy Alonzo;

Viola – Nuria Gambo; Cello – Sharon Nauman

# GATHERING CAROL....."Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



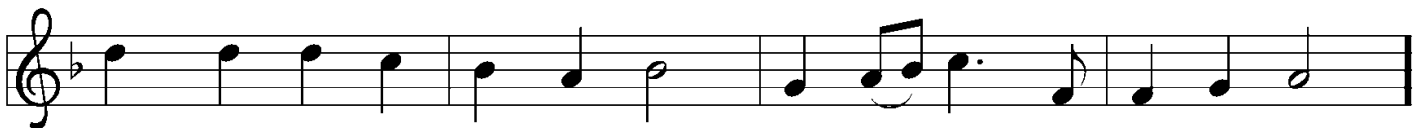
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

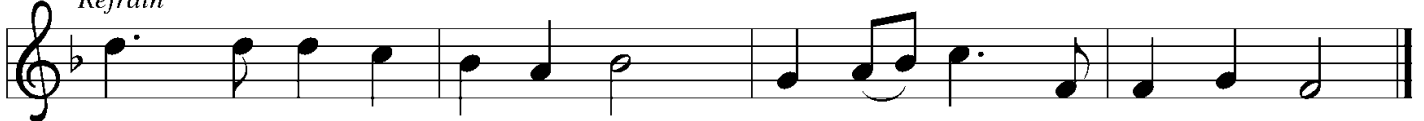


Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

## *Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915



## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

**Amen.**

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us.**

**Amen.**

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. ✝ In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

**Amen.**

## THE NATIVITY PROCLAMATION

Today, the eve of the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image. Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign of the covenant. Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah: thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt. Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the anointing of David as king; in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel. In the one hundred and ninety fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.

During the forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace, Jesus Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having past since his conception, in the city of David which is Bethlehem of Judea, was born of the Virgin Mary. Today is the eve of the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.



# CAROL....."Of the Father's Love Begotten"



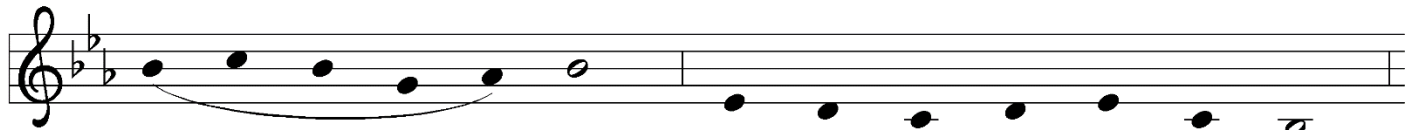
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with



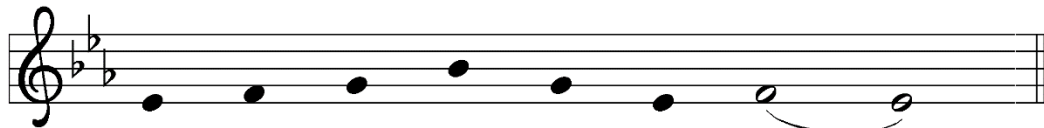
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite  
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

### **And also with you.**

Let us pray together. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## **First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## **Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

**HERE ENDS THE READING.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### 4pm....."A Baby Changes Everything"

Duet, Michelle Brown & Aubrey Coutts

### 6pm....."Run to Bethlehem" (Choir)

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Contributors: Joel Raney, Joel Raney

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### 10pm....."Gesù Bambino"

Solo, Frances DeBruyn

## Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

### Glory to you, O Lord.

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

# SERMON



## SERMON CAROL....."Love Has Come"



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

**Amen**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially Joyce, Don, Fred, Barbara, Victoria, Christi, Larry, Kristina, Dominic & Megan, Vicki, Peter, Joe, Dave & Joy, Michelle, Gloria, Sharon, Michael, Larrie, Ellen, Liana, Becky, Elijah, Marryann, Darell, Richard, Robin, Henry, Ron, Lisa, Ruth, Karen, James, Peter, Dorie, Gavin and the family and friends of JJ, Ken, Jay*



and Stanley). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

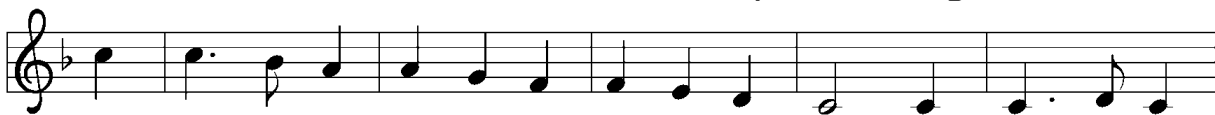
Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

### Christmas Carol....."Away in a Manger"



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked  
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look  
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.  
Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841-1905



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

## **DISTRIBUTION**

*At this time take the elements you have with you saying these words:*

**The Body of Christ given for you. The Blood of Christ shed for you.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**4pm....."Greensleeves" (String Quartet)**

**6pm....."By Candlelight" (Choir)**

Music & Lyrics by Ruth Elaine Schram

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**10pm....."O Holy Night"**

Sharon Nauman, cello; Scott Sims, piano

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

## **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (6:00 and 10:00)**

The Ushers will light the candle of the person sitting closest to the middle aisle. To avoid the dripping of wax, the person with the unlit candle should tip it toward the lighted candle.

Please try to keep lighted candles upright at all times.



## CHRISTMAS CAROL....."Silent Night! Holy Night!"



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885  
Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

## PLEASE EXTINGUISH YOUR CANDLE

### BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

# SENDING CAROL....."Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Merry  
Christmas*

## POSTLUDE

### 4pm & 6pm String Quartet

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice; We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

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### 10pm Sharon Nauman, cello & Scott Sims, piano

*The First Noel*



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Living Water is a Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Grand Ca